

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

18 July 1988

NOTE FOR: Chairman, NIC

FROM: Charles E. Allen
NIO for Warning

Attached for your information is a memorandum prepared by DIA on the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. The work done by Gen. Einsel, and to some extent by my staff, has influenced DIA's views on Iraqi use of chemical agents. I recall when Gen. Einsel and I prepared a warning brief in late April on the Al Faw campaign and Iraqi use of chemicals in that battle, DIA as well as Army ACSI reacted very negatively to our warning brief.

Evidence, however, continued to accumulate that Iraqi forces not only used chemicals at Al Faw but also at Fish Lake. DIA's assessment now accepts this and judges that Iraq uses chemicals at the onset of an offensive to disrupt Iranian command and control, render ineffective Iranian artillery forces, and to create confusion in rear service areas. DIA has wisely climbed down from its earlier position of playing down the use of chemicals and attributing Iraq's victories almost solely to overwhelming armor and artillery.


Charles E. Allen

Attachment:
As stated